

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said computer network is the internet and/or any direct electronic link.
4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prospective user has an email-based client application for accessing the IM system.
5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prospective user has a GSM device forming part of a GSM network for accessing the IM system.
7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said client specific address is sourced from an email or SMS message sent to the email address of said IM server.
8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said specific address is sourced from an email or SMS message sent to the email address of a registered user on said IM server.
9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said email or SMS message is sent by said prospective server.
10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said client specific address is sourced from a message sent to said IM server from a registered user of said IM system, on any client type accessible to said IM server.
13. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said computer network is the internet and/or any direct electronic link.
14. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the prospective user has an email-based client application for accessing the IM system.

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15. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the prospective user has a GSM device forming part of a GSM network for accessing the IM system.
16. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said GSM network has SMS capability and said prospective user is initially connected to an SMSC server to control and manage said SMS therebetween, and wherein said SMSC server is directly connected to said IM server via said computer network.
17. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said client specific address is sourced from an email or SMS message sent to the email address of said IM server.
18. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said client specific address is sourced from an email or SMS message sent to the email address of a registered user on said IM server.
19. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said email or SMS message is sent by said prospective user.
20. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said client specific address is sourced from a message sent to said IM server from a registered user of said IM system, on any client type accessible to said IM server.

REMARKS

The presentation of a clean set of claims is permitted under new rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(3), effective November 7, 2000. An amended form of claims 3-5 is attached for the Examiner's convenience pursuant to new rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(1)(ii). No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.